

May 23, 2007

**OPENING STATEMENT OF
THE HONORABLE RALPH HALL
RANKING MEMBER
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

MARKUP OF:

- **H.R. 364**, *to provide for the establishment of the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E)* – (Gordon, D-TN);
- **H.R. 1467**, *the 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act* – (Wu, D-OR);
- **H.R. 1716**, *the Green Energy Education Act of 2007* – (McCaul, R-TX);
- **H.R. 632**, *the H-Prize Act of 2007* – (Lipinski, D-IL).

Mr. Chairman, you and I have been working together for over 22 years now – and on the same side of the aisle for most of that time. Why, if it weren't for me switching parties, you might not be the chairman right now! You can thank me later... When you work with someone as long as we have, not only on this committee, but also on the commerce committee, there are bound to be times when we're going to disagree, and as much as I dislike going against my good friend from Tennessee, sometimes it just happens. As it turns out, today is one of those days. While I commend my friend for his efforts on behalf of boosting energy R&D, I disagree with the way H.R. 364 does it. I have to say that I have a problem with the idea of creating a new bureaucracy within the Department of Energy that will, regardless of intention, fight for money with existing and future programs at DOE. With the tight budget parameters we are working with, I am not comfortable authorizing the creation of ARPA-E based on a vague recommendation that was in the Gathering Storm report.

The facts are that DOE currently has the authority to do ARPA-type projects, but DOE is woefully underfunded. I am concerned that we could be faced with the problem of having both the Office of Science and ARPA-E under funded so that neither of them is operating at its full potential if we go forward with creating this new agency. Before we go forward with any ARPA-type projects, I would like the Section 1821 study in EPACT to be completed that looks at the applicability of the DARPA management practices and the advisability of creating a DARPA-type agency within DOE before moving forward with legislation. To that end I will be introducing an amendment that, without creating a new bureaucracy, would require the Secretary of Energy to identify and accelerate advanced research projects at the DOE that will address our energy needs. I, along with several of my colleagues, have sent a letter to the Secretary urging him to complete the study as mandated by law so that we all may benefit from its recommendations. In addition, in the letter we also ask the Secretary to appoint the Technology Transfer Coordinator and establish the Technology Transfer Working Group. As several of our witnesses testified to in our subcommittee hearing, technology transfer plays an integral part in the process from basic research to widespread commercialization.

I don't think anyone would dispute that our country needs clean, affordable, reliable energy that is generated through research and development. This committee should

continue to advance legislation that addresses our most critical energy needs in a fiscally responsible manner. To that end, I will be introducing legislation by the end of this week that will help accomplish these goals.

In addition to the ARPA-E legislation we will also be marking up H.R. 1467, H.R. 1716, and H.R. 632. I am an original cosponsor of H.R. 1467, the 10,000 Trained by 2010 Act, and am supportive of the primary goal it seeks to achieve. If implemented correctly and efficiently, health information technology (IT) can revolutionize our health care system. But, we must have an educated workforce, properly trained in health IT, in order for it to be successful. This is what H.R. 1467 is about. NSF is already doing work yeoman's work in the IT arena, but this measure will increase the focus on health IT. I encourage my colleagues to support it.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1716, the Green Energy Education Act of 2007, introduced by my fellow Texan, Mr. McCaul. This is a good piece of legislation that was voted out of this Committee in the last Congress. The fact that it is also being included in larger energy packages on both sides of the aisle in this Congress indicates its overwhelming support. Simply put, this measure encourages the Department of Energy to work with the National Science Foundation to help develop the next generation of engineers and architects to work effectively together to produce buildings that incorporate the latest in energy efficient technologies. I commend Mr. McCaul for his fine work on this bill.

Finally, I also urge my colleagues to support H.R. 632, the H-Prize Act sponsored by Inglis and Lipinski. This legislation was introduced in the last Congress and passed overwhelmingly by the House of Representatives. The bill directs the Secretary of Energy to award competitive cash prizes biennially to advance the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of hydrogen energy technologies. Categories eligible for prizes include advancements in certain hydrogen components or systems, prototypes of hydrogen-powered vehicles, and transformational changes in technologies for hydrogen distribution or production. I commend Mr. Inglis and Mr. Lipinski for introducing this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Once again, Mr. Chairman, I am happy to be supportive of these three bipartisan pieces of legislation and look forward to working with you to advance these bills. I yield back the balance of my time.